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Clarification: Step-level Assignment for Operations That Source Outside Market Animals –
Standard Program Requirements Section 6.b (Pigs, Meat Sheep, Meat Goats, Bison, Laying Hens, Meat Chicken); Section 5.c (Turkeys); Page 1 (Beef); and Section 6. iii. (p.38) of the Policy Manual v1.0.

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Given that in the Standard's Program Requirements Section for bullet 6.b (Pigs, Meat Sheep, Meat Goats, Bison, Laying Hens, Meat Chicken); Section 5.c (Turkeys); Page 1 (Beef); and Section 6. iii. (p. 38) of the Policy Manual v1.0 could use further explanation, G.A.P. has issued the following clarification.

For any operation that sources market animals/poultry from another operation and plans to market them as G.A.P. certified:

1. The source operation(s) must have a current G.A.P. certificate; and
2. The highest Step-level the operation can achieve **cannot be greater** than the source operation.

Examples

1. A finishing operation purchases weaner pigs from three different operations. The source farms each hold a Step 1 certificate. Even though the finishing operation could achieve a Step 3 based on its management of finishers, it can only achieve a Step 1 certificate as it sources from lower Step-level operations.
2. A feedlot purchases backgrounders from operations that hold Step 4 certificates (including cow-calf operations). Although the source operations have Step 4 certificates, the feedlot can only achieve a Step 2 certificate due to its management of finishers at its own operation.